

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

ZHOU, Xiao-Xiong et al.

Conf.:

Appl. No.:

NEW

Group:

Unknown

Filed:

November 16, 2001

Examiner:

Unknown

For:

PRODRUGS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

November 16, 2001

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:



--Useful trifunctional L₁ group, especially for esterifying directly to the nucleoside include linkers of the formula IIa or IIb:

$$-A$$
 $-(CH_2)_n$ $-A$ $-(CH_2)_m$ $-A$ $-(CH_2)_m$